The Central Administrative Tribunal Rules

*67. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Rules of Central Administrative Tribunals insists that the aggrieved applicant must exhaust all available remedies before approching the Tribunal to challenge the impugned order; and

(b) if so, whether such an insistence does not prevent the applicant from obtained an interim stay order against the impugned order thereby encouraging the administrators to relieve the employees even in absentia to prevent issue of stay orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) According to the provisions contained in Section 20 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, a Tribunal shall not ordinarily admit an application unless it is satisfied that the applicant had availed of all the remedies available to him under the relevant service rules as to redressal of grievances.

(b) Central Administrative Tribunal takes a view in such matters having regard to the circumstances of each case and in the light of the relevant provisions of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985, coupled with the principles of natural justice.

Infrastructure Development in North East

*68. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to act on various recommendations of the Sukla Commission relating to the infrastructure development in the North East;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) which of the infrastructure development issues identified by the Sukla Commission have so far been approved by Government for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The High Level Commission (HLC) for the North East, headed by Shri S.P. Shukla, the then Member, Planning Commission submitted its Report to the then Prime Minister on March 7, 1997. The HLC critically examined the backlog in Basic Minimum Services (BMS) and gaps in infrastructure development such as

Power, Communications, Irrigation, Flood Control etc. and recommended policy initiatives and programmes to bridge these gaps and rejuvenate local economy alongwith measures for institutional reforms, additional Resources Mobilisation and effecting public participation in development activities. Trie HLC also estimated total cost for providing BMS to the North Eastern States and indicative requirement of funds for infrastructure development in the Ninth Five-Year Plan.

Immediately after the submission of the Report of the HLC, action was initiated to operationalise its various recommendations by dovetailing them with the Plans of the concerned States and Central Ministries/Agencies. In addition, funds are also being made available through North Eastern Council (NEC) for infrastructure projects and from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources constituted for assisting development projects, including in the infrastructure sector, in die North East and Sikkim. Project proposals relating, inter-alia, to the recommendations of the HLC are envisaged to be indentified from time to time, for assistance, on merits, from the Central Pool. During 1998-99, certain projects (including those recommended by the HLC) in the North East and Sikkim have been assisted. Amounts allocated for the various infrastructure sectors such as Irrigation and Flood Control, Energy, Transport and BMS for seven States in the North East during 1998-99 are as follows:

		(Rs. Crores) Allocation during 1998-99
1.	Basic Minimum Services (BMS)	1009.16
2.	Infrastructure	
	(a) Irrigation and Flood Control	361.27
	(b) Energy	645.10
	(c) Transport	606.65

Corruption in Passport Offices

*69. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Passport seekers at the mercy of touts" as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 11th October, 1999;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that rampant corruption is prevalent at various passport offices in the country;

(c) whether the passport officials, in connivance with touts, are looting the passport seekers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?